

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 SS-20 INRE-00

CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-11 FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9207

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 5995

E.O.11652: NA

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJ: UPI, AP POOL REPORT ON ETHIOPIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS
STRIKE

SECSTATE FOR S/PRS

REF: STATE 044639

POOLED REPORT FOR UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL AND ASSOCIATE
PRESS PLEASE FORWARD.

ADDIS ABABA MAY 29 -- ETHIOPIA CONTINUED TO BE ISOLATED
FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD TODAY AS THE NATION-WIDE STRIKE
BY EIGHT HUNDRED TELECOMMUNICATION WORKERS ENTERED ITS
THIRD DAY.

ARMED TROOPS ARE CONTINUING TO OCCUPY ALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS
BUILDING HERE IN THE CAPITAL BUT LATEST REPORTS SAY THE
STRIKERS HAVE REFUSED TO EVEN NEGOTIATE WITH THE ARMED
FORCES UNTIL ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE REMOVED.

THE STRIKERS ARE DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF SEVERAL
TOP IBTE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE GENERAL MANAGER, AND THE
RELEASE OF TWENTY FOUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS EMPLOYEES ARRESTED
BY TROOPS ON SATURDAY AND HAVE SAID THEY WILL NOT RETURN
TO WORK UNTIL THESE DEMANDS ARE MET.

HOWEVER THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SECURITY SET UP BY THE
ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES HAS REJECTED THE DEMAND FOR THE
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DISMISSAL OF THE OFFICIALS SAYING THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST

THE OFFICIALS WERE NOT BASED ON CONCRETE EVIDENCE BUT ON
"RUMOUR AND PERSONAL HATRED."

THE COMMISSION SAID THAT AT A MEETING IT HAD WITH THE IBTE
EMPLOYEES ON SATURDAY, THE EMPLOYEES, RATHER THAN PRESENTING
THEIR COMPLAINTS AND HEARING THE COMMISSION'S RESPONSE,
INSTEAD TRIED TO INCITE OTHER WORKERS TO STRIKE AND IT WAS
THIS INCIDENT THAT LED TO THE ARREST OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
WORKERS.

MEANWHILE THOSE ARRESTED ARE CONTINUING THEIR HUNGER STRIKE,
NOW IN ITS THIRD DAY. THE STRIKE HAS SHUT DOWN ETHIOPIA'S
TELEPHONE TELEX AND CABLE LINKS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND
HAS ALSO AFFECTED INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS AND THE SERVICES
OF THE NATIONAL RADIO STATION. ENDS POOL. WYMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: ADDIS ABABA 5995 NOT PASSED.

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